

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 31, 2001 with claims 1-41. Claims 42 and 43 were added in an Amendment filed by Applicants on June 25, 2003, and are canceled without prejudice herein. Claims 1-41 remain pending. Claims 1-3, 13, 22, 29, 32-34 and 39 are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding final Office Action dated September 30, 2003, the Examiner: (i) rejected claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,570,181 (hereinafter "Graas"); and (ii) rejected claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graas in view of a 1991 IEEE article by Hoang et al. (hereinafter "Hoang").

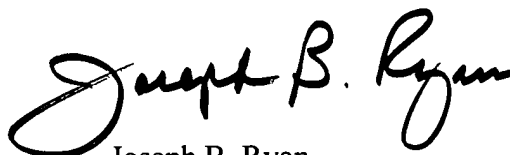
Applicants acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-41.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §103(a) rejections, on the ground that the cited references fail to teach or suggest each of the limitations of claims 42 and 43. For example, with regard to the rejection of claim 42, it appears that the TiN/Al-Si-Cu interconnects of Hoang, relied upon by the Examiner, comprise a single conductive path and not parallel conductive paths of different impedances as claimed.

Notwithstanding the forgoing traversal, Applicants have canceled claims 42 and 43 without prejudice, solely in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-41 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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